

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3133

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 23 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1873
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred H.B. No. 1873, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Exempt one strategic planning retreat of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii per year from open meeting requirements if certain conditions are met;
- (2) Require members of the Board of Regents to complete a governance training and attend the training at least once every two years thereafter;
- (3) Require the Candidate Advisory Council to ensure that all candidates presented to the Governor for nomination have certain subject matter experience and are not registered lobbyists who have lobbied on matters pertaining to the University of Hawaii;
- (4) Exempt the financial disclosures of the Board of Regents as mandated by the State Ethics Code from being made public; and



- (5) Require the Board of Regents, in collaboration with the Candidate Advisory Council, to submit annual reports to the Legislature.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Hawai'i State Ethics Commission, Public First Law Center, League of Women Voters of Hawaii, and Society of Professional Journalists Hawaii Chapter.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Information Practices.

Your Committee finds that the Board of Regents requires highly qualified, well-trained candidates and operational flexibility to efficiently govern the significant public resources within its purview. Since the existing public financial disclosure requirements for Regents were enacted over ten years ago, many highly qualified potential candidates have expressed privacy concerns that discouraged them from applying to be a Regent, contributing to difficulties replacing Regents whose terms have expired. This measure will improve the governance of one of the State's most impactful public institutions by supporting strategic planning and professional development for Regents.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that one six-hour strategic planning retreat of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii per year shall be exempt from open meeting requirements if certain conditions are met; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1873, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1873,



H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary.

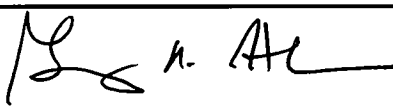
Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Education,



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair

The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 1873 HD 2	EDU, WAM / JDC	03/10/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)				/
FUKUNAGA, Carol				/
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha			✓	
TOTAL	2	0	1	1 2
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes